

Claims:

1. A method for obtaining a composition comprising an aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units by copolymerizing:

- 5 i) a mole % of para-phenylenediamine;
ii) b mole % of 5(6)-amino-2-(p-aminophenyl)benzimidazole; and
iii) 90-110 mole% of terephthaloyl dichloride
in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and containing c wt.% of calcium chloride, wherein c
is within the range from 1 to 20, and wherein the ratio a : b ranges from 1 : 20 to 20 : 1, a
10 + b is 100 mole%, and i), ii), and iii) together comprise 1-20 wt.% of the mixture,
characterized in that the product b.c is at least 50 and less than 215 and that the
composition is a crumb with a relative viscosity η_{rel} of at least 4, wherein the crumb is
defined as non-sticky particles at least 95% of which having an average diameter of 0.7-
15 mm.

- 15 2. A composition comprising an aromatic polyamide containing para-phenylene terephthalamide and 2-(p-phenylene)benzimidazole terephthalamide units, obtainable by
copolymerizing para-phenylenediamine; 5(6)-amino-2-(p-aminophenyl)benzimidazole;
and terephthaloyl dichloride in a mixture of N-methyl pyrrolidone and calcium chloride,
20 characterized in that the composition is a crumb with a relative viscosity η_{rel} of at least 4.

3. The composition of claim 2 wherein the crumb has a relative viscosity η_{rel} between 4 and
7.

25 4. A method for making purified aromatic polyamide by coagulating and washing the crumb
of claim 2 or 3 in water, followed by a drying step.